



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christmas Trees Undergo Treatment

BARRIGADA, GUAM – As early as last week, the Customs and Quarantine Agency's (CQA) BioSecurity Task Force (BSTF) has been monitoring and certifying the treatment of Christmas trees upon arrival into Guam.

The first treatment of trees occurred on Thursday, November 15, 2018. Since then, the Agency has treated 5 containers equating to over 1,200 Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands.



Treated container of Christmas trees. Photo by: CQI E. LaPuebla

Each container of trees is treated with a product called methyl bromide wherein the product, a gas, is applied to the interior of the container and it remains sealed and sits for the prescribed time period. Upon completion, the container is reopened by Customs and an officer re-inspects. The release of each container only occurs after it passes Customs re-inspection.

This process allows the Agency to stop the flow of any pests or invasive species which could be hitchhiking on these imports and may negatively impact Guam's agriculture or natural resources. So far, treatment has proven successful by eliminating various species of beetles, ants, and spiders.

In 2016, the Guam Invasive Species Council unanimously approved a Department of Agriculture policy requiring that all imported Christmas trees be fumigated upon arrival.

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos-Torres at (671) 475-6202 or email Jessi.Santos-Torres@cqa.guam.gov.